

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Ishpeming City Council was held on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 in the Ishpeming City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Pat Scanlon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Pat Scanlon, Council Members Ben Argall, Brett Argall, Jason Chapman, and Kurt Kipling (5).
Absent: None (0). Also present was City Manager Randy Scholz and City Attorney Caroline Bridges.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Ben Argall, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Claudia Demarest, 821 Maurice Street, urged the Council to place funds in the Parks and Recreation 2026 budget for maintenance of the Al Quaal lodge; and she expressed her concerns with the condition of the road that leads to the hospital.

Rebecca Maino, 725 Carr Street in Negaunee, was present to address the fluoride issue. She commented on the Negaunee Ishpeming Water Authority's diligence in ensuring the appropriate levels of fluoride are added to the water and noted they monitor and test daily; the addition of fluoride was on the ballot in Ishpeming in 1953 and passed; she reviewed the benefits of fluoride in the drinking water and suggested some of the information being presented was not correct and urged Council to read credible sources when reviewing information on fluoride.

Cathy Houghton, 551 S. Pine, was grateful there was fluoride in the drinking water because it helped to maintain dental health in residents; she added at appropriate levels it maintains a healthy atmosphere for the community, and it does help reduce cavities.

Keats Dormont, Partridge Creek Farm, announced Partridge Creek Farm was having a fruit and nut tree planting event along with a tree give-away. This event would support Partridge Creek Farm, Partridge Creek Compost, and the Ishpeming High School. It will be taking place at the Partridge Creek Farm Site at 550 Cleveland Avenue from 10-11 am and at the Cliff's Shaft Mine Museum from 12-1 p.m.

6. MANAGER OFFER OF INFORMATION - There was no additional information.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- a. Minutes of Previous Meeting (March 19th, March 26th, April 2nd, Closed Session March 19th)
- b. Approval of Disbursements
- c. Confirm Mayor appointment – Todd Prillwitz to vacancy on the Planning Commission; Term Exp 11/2025
- d. Mayor Appointment – Nicole Nelson to a vacancy on the Housing Commission: Term Exp 10/2029
- e. Confirm Mayor appointment – Elizabeth Firby to vacancy on Cemetery Board: Term Exp 5/2026
- f. Confirm Mayor appointment – Elizabeth Firby to vacancy on Compensation Commission Term Exp 2/2027

8. MONTHLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

a. Financial Statement Report

Finance Director Grant Getschow handed out a revised summary sheet and noted the delinquent tax settlement has been received along with the Cities, Villages, Township Revenue Sharing (CVTRS) payment. He reviewed the

unaudited balance sheet including the General Fund, Major and Local Streets, Sewer and Garbage Fund, DDA, and Police and Fire Retirement Fund for the period ending April 30, 2025.

b. DPW Update

DPW General Foreman Bill Anderson reported UPHS-Bell has submitted their drainage plan for the parking lot and staff would be checking into submitting an application for Category F funding for the road to the hospital; he advised the flow meters were received and staff will start to monitor specific areas; he provided a brief update on the start of road construction and noted communication related to the progress of construction would be improved this year; the entrance to the Cemetery would be off of Poplar Street during construction; he reported no problems have been report in the area South of Division Street across from the High School to date; and explained Lake Bancroft was pumped this year into the storm sewer versus the over flow water going into the sanitary system which reduced the charges from the Waste Water Treatment Plan.

c. Police Update

Police Chief Chad Radabaugh reported 35 notices have been sent out for miscellaneous debris, which included unlicensed vehicles. He further noted the Rental Inspector/Code Enforcer has also completed 75 rental inspections to date. He explained miscellaneous debris violations is a long process because they have to go through the Court system, but advised staff is working on the complaints and following the required procedures.

9. PUBLIC HEARING – There were none.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – There was none.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Presentation from Partridge Creek Farm

Kate Argall and Mary Andronis, Co-Executive Directors for Partridge Creek Farm (PCF), provided a brief overview of the services offered by PCF and explained they were a non-profit organization and were connecting people with locally grown fresh foods. PCF runs youth and adult educational programming, and in addition, they provide programing for the schools with some of the locally grown food being served in the school. They announced the West End Food Stand will be held on Wednesdays beginning on June 11th.

b. Special Event Application

i. Ishpeming Community Events-Music in the Park and Festival of Treasures

ii. St. Rocco/St. Anthony Italian Festival: 7/26/2025 Festival and 7/27/2025 Parade

iii. Marquette County Walk of Hope (Suicide Awareness): 9/6/2025

iv. Shelly's Rainbow Bar and Temporary Liquor License: 7/3-7/6, 2025

A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman and carried unanimously to approval all four special event applications, parade permit, and temporary liquor license application as presented.

c. Resolution #15-2025, DWSRF Reimbursement Request #2

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Ben Argall and carried unanimously to approve Resolution #15-2025, DWSRF Reimbursement Request #2 as presented pending completion of the City Attorney review of the UPEA contract for payment of their invoices.

Chris Holmes, UP Engineers and Architects (UPEA) reported Payne and Dolan would be mobilizing next week to repair the Jopling Street alley punch list which would include grass seed and mulch in the area. He further noted all other alleys would be looked at and, if needed, would be brought back to the same condition as prior to the construction project. He added they would do their best to communicate changes in timelines during the project, however, he explained some changes happen very quickly.

d. CWSRF and DWSRF Fill Agreements

i. Lindberg and Sons

ii. Payne and Dolan

DPW General Foreman Anderson explained there were two fill sites for Lindberg and Sons: the Cemetery and the Second Street Snow Dump. Payne and Dolan had one fill site on Malton Road.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall and carried unanimously to approve the fill agreements for the CWSRF and DWSRF projects for A. Lindberg and Sons and Payne and Dolan as presented.

e. Second Reading of Amendment to Ordinance 7-400, Rental Registration

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Ben Argall and carried unanimously to approve the proposed amendments to Ordinance 7-400, Rental Registration as of the second reading.

f. Second Reading of Amendment to Ordinance 7-500 Rental Inspection

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Ben Argall and carried unanimously to approve the proposed amendments to Ordinance 7-500, Rental Inspections as of the second reading.

g. Change Order for American Ramp Company Contract: Skate Park

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling and carried unanimously to accept the American Ramp Company Change Order in the amount of \$20,000 for a total contract amount of \$312,600 as presented.

Finance Director Grant Getschow advised American Ramp Company should begin construction mid-July with a completion time of approximately 6 weeks.

h. Request to hire a part-time Maintenance/Custodian position for City Hall/DPW/Library

Manager Scholz reviewed the Statement of Explanation requesting approval to create a part-time Maintenance/Custodial position for 20 hours/week for City Hall, DPW, and the library. Staff was working with the Senior Center for a possible combined position. The duties of the position would include general custodian and light maintenance. With the elimination of the custodial contracts and hiring this part-time position, the general fund would realize an approximate \$6,000 savings.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Ben Argall and carried unanimously to authorize hiring a part-time Maintenance/Custodial position for 20 hours per week with a starting wage of \$20/hour as recommended.

i. Request to purchase (2) zero turn lawn mowers from OK Rental

DPW General Foreman Anderson explained staff would like to purchase two zero turn gas-powered lawn mowers versus a diesel mower for the Cemetery.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall and carried unanimously to waive competitive bidding on the recommendation of the City Manager and authorize the purchase of 2 Ariens zero turn mowers from OK Rental Sales and Service for \$8,200 from the Cemetery Fund.

j. Brasswire Campground Signage – M-28

General Foreman Anderson advised the Parks and Recreation Commission would like to place small brown rustic camping signage on M-28/Division Street pointing toward Malton Road, from each direction, for the Brasswire Campground. These signs did not have an annual fee. Staff suggested Council consider installing the blue Pure Michigan signs instead to keep all signage to Brasswire consistence.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall and carried unanimously to authorize the placement of the brown rustic camping signage for the Brasswire Campground on M-28/Division Street.

There was discussion related to the brown rustic camping directional signs versus the blue Pure Michigan signs.

k. RG Design Engineering Proposal for Al Quaal Lodge

Mayor Pat Scanlon suggested competitive bidding be waived by staff so that this project could continue to move forward; he thought this was an important project and should not be delayed. There was discussion between Council and the Manager related to waiving competitive bidding.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Ben Argall and carried unanimously to waive competitive bidding on the recommendation of the Manager and move forward with the proposal from RG Design in the amount of \$14,200 for engineering and design work needed for the Al Quaal Lodge repairs.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman and carried unanimously to authorize a budget amendment to reallocate the dollars remaining from the Cemetery GIS project to the Al Quaal lodge.

l. Anderson Tackman and Company

i. 2024 Audit Engagement Letter

ii. 2024 Audit Preliminary Comment

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling and carried unanimously to approve the 2024 audit engagement letter and the 2024 audit preliminary comment form and authorize the Mayor and Manager to sign.

m. DPW request to purchase a plate compactor from Midway Rentals

General Foreman Bill Anderson explained the need and the advantage of purchasing this piece of equipment.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Ben Argall and carried unanimously to waive competitive bidding on the recommendation of the City Manager and approve the purchase of the plat compactor from Midway Rentals in the amount of \$8,799 with funding split between the Water and Sewer funds.

n. Closed Session pursuant to

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) to consider strategy and negotiations connected with a collective bargaining agreement and include Finance Director Getschow and Chief of Police Radabaugh at 7:26 p.m. Ayes: Mayor Pat Scanlon, Councilmembers, Ben Argall, Brett Argall, Jason Chapman, and Kurt Kipling. (5). Nays: None (0). Motion passed 5-0.

Returned to open session at 7:47 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling and carried unanimously to approve the Tentative Agreement with the AFSCME Supervisory Chapter for a three-year contract.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Ben Argall and carried unanimously to approve the Tentative Agreement with the AFSCME DPW Chapter for a three-year contract.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall and carried unanimously to approve the Tentative Agreement with the AFSCME Clerical Chapter for a three-year contract.

Mayor Pat Scanlon thanked the negotiating teams, Rick Edward-AFSCME Representative and Manager Scholz, Finance Director Getschow and City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager Smith for all the time spent during negotiations.

Rick Edward, AFSCME Representative, announced all chapters have ratified the agreements unanimously. He thanked all staff and stated it was a pleasure to work with Management's Negotiating team.

o. Full-time/Part-time Non-Union wage adjustments and backpay/retro pay

Manager Scholz explained after reviewing the City's organizational structure he was proposing a series of organizational changes and wage adjustments. When available he reviewed the Michigan Municipal Leagues wage and salary database for comparisons. In addition, he advised the union wage adjustments would take effect first, followed by subsequent new contract raises.

He recommended the Finance Director title change to Deputy City Manager/Finance Director and reviewed the revised role/job description changes. He also reviewed the changes proposed to the job description for the Treasurer with the title change to Treasurer/Finance Office Manager.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the change from Finance Director to Deputy City Manager/Finance Director.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall and carried unanimously to approve the change from Treasurer to Treasurer/Finance Office Manager.

Manager Scholz advised the following organizational changes were approved as part of the Tentative Agreement with each AFSCME Chapters.

- The DPW General Foreman would change to DPW Director with a wage adjustment.
- The Assistant Foreman: Streets; Water and Sewer, Cemetery Parks, and Chief Mechanic would be changed to Foreman with a wage adjustment.
- The Cemetery Lead Worker would be changed to Cemetery Lead Worker/Sexton with a wage adjustment.
- The DPW Technician position would not be filled.
- The Account Clerk/DPW would be changed to Account Clerk-DPW/Deputy City Clerk with no wage adjustment.

Wage and Retro/Forward Pay for Non-Union Employees

Manager Scholz reviewed the wage adjustments and back pay/forward pay for the Deputy City Manager/Finance Director, City Treasurer/Finance Office Manager, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager, and Police Chief. Wage adjustments would take effect June 1st.

He further noted non-union staff would receive a 3% increase, based on the June 1, 2024 wage, with retro pay from January 1, 2025 through May 31, 2025.

In addition, he recommended applying the wage that the City Council approved during the City Manager's vacancy retroactively for the period March 17 to May 31, 2025 for the following positions: Finance Director, City Treasurer, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager, and DPW General Foreman. These increases were removed when he started on March 17th, but the work performed did not stop immediately.

Manager Scholz reviewed the Deputy City Manager/Finance Director salary adjustments and back pay.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Ben Argall and carried unanimously to approve the wage adjustment for the Deputy City Manager/Finance Director from \$81,761 to \$95,000 effective June 1st and the 3% increase and backpay as recommended by the City Manager.

Manager Scholz reviewed the City Treasurer/Finance Office Manager salary adjustments and back pay.

A motion was made by Councilmember Kurt Kipling, seconded by Councilmember Jason Chapman and carried unanimously to approve the wage adjustment for the City Treasurer/Finance Office Manager from \$62,727 to \$70,000 effective June 1st and the 3% increase and backpay as recommended by the City Manager.

Manager Scholz reviewed the salary adjustment and back/forward pay for the City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Kurt Kipling and carried unanimously to approve the 3% salary increase (back to January 1st) from \$77,638 to \$79,967 for the City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager; and the back pay/forward pay from March 17th through December 31, 2025 (the increased pay rate as previously approved by the City Council in the City Manager's vacancy) as recommended by the City Manager.

Manager Scholz reviewed the 3% increases for the Zoning Administrator, Rental/Code Inspector, Library Clerk, Library Assistant, and the Fire Department positions with back pay to January 1, 2025.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall and carried unanimously to approve the 3% wage increase for the Zoning Administrator, Rental/Code Inspector, Library Clerk, Library Assistant, and Fire Department and back pay as recommended by the City Manager.

Manager Scholz reviewed the salary adjustment and back pay for the Police Chief.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Ben Argall and carried unanimously to approve the wage adjustment for the Police Chief effective June 1, 2024 from \$77,096 to \$84,000 and a wage increase on January 1, 2026 to \$90,000 including the 3% increase and back pay as recommended by the City Manager.

p. City Hall/DPW Hours of Operation

Manager Scholz announced the City would start seasonal hours beginning on the Monday after Memorial Day and running through the Friday before Labor Day. City Hall would be open from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm and the Department of Public Works hours would be 6:00 am to 4:00 pm. This change was intended to enhance customer service, improve staff coverage, and support employee recruitment and retention.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Ben Argall and carried unanimously to approve the proposed seasonal hours of operation as presented.

12. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Jason Chapman advised there has been a fund set up for the family of the recent house fire; and he thanked all the City staff and City Manager, Finance Director, and City Clerk for work during negotiations.

Councilmember Brett Argall attended the School Board meeting and provided an update on the tennis court project; attended the Karl Bohnak meet and greet and also met with Representative Bohnak and Senior Center staff to discuss their needs; attended the DDA meeting and announced the Festival of Treasures will be held on July 3rd and the farmer's market would begin this Sunday in the Jasper Ridge parking lot; and announced the Anderson Building received the MEDC grant.

Councilmember Kurt Kipling attended the Karl Bohnak meet and greet; attended the hike and bike held by RAMBA; and the Ishpeming Lions Club would be having a cookout for the kids at the RAMBA trail ride located at the Brasswire Campground parking lot.

Councilmember Ben Argall attended the Building Michigan Communities conference downstate and advised the Chair of the Planning Commission Brooke Routhier was also in attendance; and they would be bringing information back to the Planning Commission.

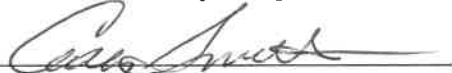
Councilmember Pat Scanlon reminded Councilmembers not to have conversations on a specific topic when attending events such as the Karl Bohnak meet and greet; a potential grant for garbage containers was being looked into; he advised there would be amendments made to the Utility Billing Policy and those amendments would be on a future Council agenda; he attended the MML lunch at Midtown in Negaunee which was very informative; after review it was determined the response time was fast by our Fire Department for the recent house fire; and the part-time communications intern would be keeping up the construction project updates.

13. MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Scholz addressed the traffic concerns from last month's regular meeting and reviewed his monthly report to Council.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:55 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Jason Chapman, seconded by Councilmember Brett Argall and carried unanimously to adjourn.


Cathy Smith, City Clerk